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of his many quotations. In this respect he and De Mazade are equally tantalizing.

WILLIAM ROSCOE THAYER.

Bismarck und seine Welt: Grundlegung einer psychologischen Biographie. Von OSKAR KLEIN-HATTINGEN. Band II. Erster Theil: 1871-1888; Zweiter Theil: 1888-1898. (Berlin: Ferdinand Dümmler. 1903, 1904. Pp. 651, 206.)

KLEIN-HATTINGEN's first volume, dealing with Bismarck's career down to 1871, was noticed in the AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW, IX. 390, and in that notice the purpose and plan of the work were fully indicated. The present volume deals with the seventeen years during which Bismarck controlled the political development of the empire he had founded, and with the ten years following his forced retirement, in which he worried his successors with open and inspired criticisms, surprised the world with occasional revelations and composed his *Reflections and Reminiscences*. To the historian these years are far less important than the great decade in which German unity was established; to the biographer who, like Klein, is chiefly interested in Bismarck's personality, they afford even more material.

In writing the political history of Germany from 1871 on, Klein's political bias causes him to lose all sense of proportion and even the appearance of objectivity which he maintained in his first volume. The foreign politics of two decades are dismissed in a few pages, and the reconstruction of Prussian local government is barely noticed. The greater part of his second volume is devoted to the conflict of political factions in the German and Prussian diets. The leaders of the Liberal left wing—*Fortschritt* or *Freisinn*—are his heroes: the numerous pages devoted to them are pure panegyric. The leaders of the Liberal right wing, the National Liberals, are pictured as either well-meaning simpletons or hypocrites. Like most Germans, the author is intolerant of political compromise and places *Prinzipientreue* above all the practical political virtues. The Clericals and the Social Democrats are represented as talented and high-minded men, because they are against Bismarck, who rapidly develops into the villain of the parliamentary drama. Like most stage-villains, he is really very shallow, and appears to play the part for its own sake. His conflict with the Roman hierarchy, his persecution of the Social Democrats, his adoption of a protectionist tariff-policy, were all dictated, according to Klein, by antipathy to political and economic liberalism, and were primarily manoeuvres for discrediting and destroying the Liberal party. A reader unacquainted with the independence of the administration in Prussia and in Germany and the subordinate part played by the diets would imagine that these bodies were really parliaments and that the German chancellor and Prussian premier required the support of a majority.

The analysis of Bismarck's personality becomes equally partisan and one-sided. It might have been compiled twenty years ago from the

speeches of Eugene Richter, and it might have appeared in the columns of any radical journal whose editor was willing to go to prison for insulting governmental authorities. Klein grows very hot and scolds; his adjectives are distinctly vituperative. In sum: Bismarck's dominant trait was love of power (*Herrschaft*); patriotism and sense of duty did not exist in him; when he asserted such motives, he was a hypocrite. Love of power destroyed in him all moral instincts: to hold power he would descend not merely to intrigue but to calumny and downright falsehood. He was also extremely vindictive: he pursued even his vanquished opponents with untiring hatred. Without attempting to deny the details of this indictment, it is submitted that the picture is untrue because the shadows are grossly overcharged and the lights unfairly kept down. It is all black or gray.

To a foreigner there is something a little sad about such an attempt to destroy a great national figure. About the best of national idols there is not a little common clay, but hero-worship is after all an important part of a nation's heritage. Of course the historian must tell the truth as he sees it; but he must be sure that his view of the truth is not colored by hatred or by envy—by the feeling that the belittling of the great makes ordinary men, including the historian, seem less little. In the last pages of his book Klein betrays something of remorse: he recalls the lasting achievements of Bismarck's statesmanship, and calls upon his readers to strew upon the great man's grave "flowers, only flowers." But the tributes he has left there are not flower-like.

MUNROE SMITH.

BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Essentials in American History. By ALBERT BUSHNELL HART.
(New York, Cincinnati and Chicago: The American Book Company. 1905. Pp. xlviii, 584.)

THIS is one of a series of text-books for secondary schools, including a volume each on ancient, medieval and modern, and English history, prepared under the editorship of Professor Hart.

Of late there have appeared some texts which in avoiding the dull chronicling of events have succeeded in creating merely an "atmosphere" filled with elusive generalities. The result was that in the great majority of high-schools, without good libraries and without specialists as teachers, the books were unsuccessful. In this respect the author seems to have struck the desired mean, though the aforesaid smaller high-school will surely find it difficult to cover so large a text within the time usually allowed in the curriculum. The query arises, too, whether it would not be better to omit many details which encumber rather than assist the narrative.

The mechanical arrangement of the book consists of a division into thirty-six chapters grouped under general headings, such as "Revolution", "Federation", etc. It is noticeable that the earlier periods are treated with much more brevity than the later. The somewhat original